



## All hostages could be freed by January 1991, Iranian aide says

NICOSIA (AP) — A senior Iranian official said in an interview published Sunday the Western hostages in Lebanon could be freed within 10 months.

Ali Mohammad Besharati, first deputy foreign minister, told the Tehran Times newspaper, "I can say that all the hostages may be released by next January."

Besharati's statement is the latest in a series about the hostages from ranking officials and the government-run media in Tehran.

A moderate faction led by President Hashemi Rafsanjani says the hostage issue is moving toward a solution, while a radical faction argues against releasing them.

The 18 Western hostages are believed held by Shiite Muslim groups loyal to Iran, but thought to be more loyal to the radicals than the moderates. The hostages include eight Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Irishman and an Italian.

Besharati, who visited Lebanon recently, said he believes chances for a hostage release are better than ever.

"I saw the situation there," the newspaper quoted him as saying. "And you know nothing is secret in Lebanon. On the basis of my observations I can say the chances for freedom for the hostages are brighter than at any time before."

The official said he did not expect all the hostages to be released at one time.

He also said Iran has no direct link to the kidnappers.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, as it has been repeatedly said, is against the philosophy of hostage-taking and Tehran has no direct or indirect role in this matter," Besharati said.

"Many countries believe that we in Iran have spiritual influence in Lebanon," he said. "They also believe that we can use the spiritual influence for freedom of the hostages."

An advance copy of the interview with the English-language daily in Tehran was sent to

Associated Press. The same paper in two recent editorials called for releasing the hostages as an Islamic and humanitarian action.

Besharati said Israeli attacks on Lebanon had twice prevented hostage releases — one was an unspecified attack on Muslim positions in South Lebanon two years ago and the second was the July 28, 1989, kidnapping of Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid.

"I think if these two incidents had not taken place, by now the hostages would have reached their homes," the Foreign Ministry official said.

A spiritual leader of Hezbollah, or Party of God, Obeid was kidnapped from his home in South Lebanon and remains imprisoned in Israel. The United States, Britain and U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar all condemned the Israeli action.

Kidnappers holding U.S. Marine Col. William Higgins, taken hostage while serving with the United Nations in South Lebanon, said they hanged him in retaliation last July 31. No body was ever recovered.

Last week, kidnappers holding

three U.S. educators hostage threatened to kill them unless unspecified demands were met. The kidnappers also denounced statements by Iranian officials calling for the hostages' release on humanitarian grounds.

The radical faction in Tehran, eager to confront Rafsanjani, have encouraged the Lebanese groups to continue holding the hostages and said that Iran should stay out of the matter.

Rafsanjani has expressed support for releasing the hostages several times in the past, and the Tehran Times newspaper usually reflects his views.

The moderate faction has sought improved ties with the West to help finance Iran's reconstruction in the wake of 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war. But the radicals consider ties with the West a betrayal of the ideals of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Friday was the fifth anniversary of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson's captivity. Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, is the longest held Western hostage, although most others have been held at least three years.

## balking at buying 'Patriot'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is trying to sell Israel a sophisticated anti-missile defence system, but the Israelis are not sure they want to buy.

The case reflects the impact that the reduced Soviet threat in Europe is having on thriving U.S. defence manufacturers.

Usually, Israel is the one pressuring the United States to sell it weapons systems. This time, the Defence Department and the Raytheon Co. of Lexington, Massachusetts, are the ones doing the pressuring.

Raytheon manufactures the Patriot, a land-based missile system originally designed to shoot down aircraft. Several years ago, Raytheon reconfigured the system so it also could shoot down

medium-range missiles. The \$100-million Patriot package comes equipped with a radar to detect and track targets and a command centre to issue firing instructions to the missiles.

In an annual report of possible arms sales for fiscal year 1990, the State Department informed Congress, that Israel may buy the Patriot. Under-Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz discussed details of the sale on a visit to Israel in January.

Defence secretary Dick Cheney told young American Jewish leaders several days ago that discussions about the Patriot sale were under way.

But sources close to the deal say Israel is far from sold.

"There's still a long way to go

toward a possible purchase — I say possible and not necessarily probable," said one source who spoke on condition of anonymity. He said a decision was not expected for several months.

In Israel last week, a military official said the Patriot "only gives limited solution to the missile problem, so we don't intend to buy it at this stage."

"We are looking at other systems," the official said, while declining to elaborate.

Israel's dilemma is the cost versus the threat. For the \$200 million the United States is asking for two Patriot systems Israel would need, it could produce the next generation of an anti-missile missile, known as the Arrow.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mubarak begins African tour

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak, current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), departed Sunday for Uganda, the first leg of an African tour which will also take him to Zambia and Namibia. Mubarak was accompanied by Butros Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs and Egypt's main Africa expert. The Egyptian president's first stop is a two-hour visit in the Ugandan capital Kampala for talks with President Yoweri Museveni. He later departs for the Zambian capital Lusaka where he will hold talks with President Kenneth Kaunda. On Monday, he will chair a meeting of the 50-member OAU's Southern Africa Committee which will discuss how to settle long-time wars in the region. On Tuesday, Mubarak will fly to Namibia to participate in the former South African colony's celebrations as a new nation.

### 200 Kurdish families return to Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — Bahauddin Ahmad, speaker of the Kurdish Legislative Council in northern Iraq, says 200 Kurdish families have returned from Iran after an amnesty for Kurdish rebels was announced last week. The army's Hurass Al Watan weekly reported Sunday. It quoted him as saying that Kurdish guerrillas in Iran tried to prevent the families returning, but they fled during snowstorms in the mountainous region. Neither Ahmad nor the magazine said how many Kurds were among the families who reportedly returned. Kurdish guerrillas have been fighting for an independent homeland in northern Iraq for decades. During the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, they were supported by Tehran. There are an estimated 3.5 million Iraqi Kurds, around one-quarter of the population. Tens of thousands of them live in refugee camps in Iran and Turkey, often poor conditions. They fled there during the Gulf war from Iraqi military offensives following the August 1988 ceasefire. Many more are political exiles in Europe. The amnesty was declared last week by President Saddam Hussein.

### Chinese minister arrives in Bahrain

BAHRAN (R) — Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister Qian Qichen arrived in Bahrain from Abu Dhabi Sunday on the third leg of a Gulf tour for talks with officials on regional issues and bilateral relations. The Gulf News Agency quoted Qian as saying on arrival the setting up of diplomatic relations last year "marked a new era in friendship and cooperation between the two countries." Bahrain and China established full diplomatic links in

April 1989, leaving Saudi Arabia as the only Arab nation without diplomatic ties with Peking. Qian has also visited Qatar.

### Blind Moroccans fast for jobs

RABAT (R) — A hundred blind Moroccans are staging a hunger strike at a Rabat mosque, demanding the chance to learn and earn. They set in the central courtyard of the Sid Al Ghadher Mosque Sunday holding placards listing 17 aims. One of them told Reuters the demonstration began Thursday and would continue until the authorities promised to examine their grievances. They want special facilities for the blind in the education system, school books in Braille and audio libraries. Blind people could be employed as telephone operators or physiotherapists and those with university degrees should be given jobs in the civil service, they say. A Rabat newspaper, L'Opinion, reported that 11 of the blind protesters were given hospital treatment Saturday and returned home after being discharged. No official figures are available for the number of blind in Morocco. Complete or partial blindness is often caused by trachoma, a disease prevalent in desert areas.

### Scores die in Iran pipeline blast

NICOSIA (R) — A gas pipeline exploded in the Iranian capital, Tehran, Sunday killing or injuring scores of people and starting a massive fire, the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said. The blast badly damaged at least 15 houses and destroyed 10 cars, the agency said. More than 90 minutes after the blast, firemen were struggling to control the blaze in Jamalzadeh Avenue, in the west of the capital, IRNA, monitored in Cyprus, reported.

### Maghreb states sign free circulation pact

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania (AP) — Ministers from the five countries of the Maghreb Arab Union have agreed on a document providing for free movement of citizens among their North African nations. The document, signed at the end of the ministers' meeting Saturday night, will be presented to the conference of heads of states in Algiers next July for final approval. The agreement also approved the creation of a unified identity card and coordination in the fields of security and national disasters. The identity card will serve as a Maghreb passport. Members of the Maghreb Arab Union are Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

Several of Kuwait's state-controlled newspapers have also backed Iraq's execution of Bazoft and Al Rai Al Aam daily accused him Saturday of working on plans for a military strike against Iraq's strategic installations.

"They will have elections and a parliament but under supervision. It will not be the same kind of democracy we know (in the West)," said one diplomat.

Sheikh Saad told a local daily an elected assembly could be formed but "according to (new) basis and regulations... (to ensure) the non-repetition of the experiences of 1976 and 1986" when parliaments were dissolved.

Kuwaitis forecast return of parliament this year

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti officials said Sunday that elections bringing the return of parliament after a 3½-year suspension could be held this year.

For the first time since a coalition of 32 former deputies staged a series of rallies in December and January demanding that parliament be reconvened, officials are putting a timeframe to possible elections.

"A parliament is not very far away; a call for elections could be made later this year," a senior official told Reuters.

The big unanswered question now is what sort of parliament will return to the old National Assembly building, scene of unusually lively debates in the Gulf state.

Most of the activists want what they term a democratic parliament restored.

"A toothless parliament is not acceptable. The issue here is will the government respect the constitution?" said one activist.

But many Kuwaitis and former deputies agree that rowdy public debates in the past sowed division among the country's different tribes, ethnic groups and religious factions.

The Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah dissolved the parliament — 50 elected members, 15 appointed cabinet ministers and a prime minister — at the height of the Iran-Iraq war. The conflict had spilled over into the northern Gulf state with missiles hitting its ships and several bomb attacks in the capital.

Some of those seeking what they see as a democratic forum say they fear the government will try to change election laws, amend the constitution or impose restrictions to guarantee what one activist called the formation of a "tame parliament."

But Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Sabah said last week he favoured an elected assembly "that not only acts as watchdog, but to which (the government) will be accountable as well."

Since late January, the crown prince has been meeting former deputies, tribal chiefs and prominent citizens to hear their views.

Former deputies said he had not yet put forward a formula for what the government calls "popular participation" in running the state.

"Parliamentary life will return but will it be like it was the old parliament? We have to consider the state's security, interests and the effects of a parliament and public debate on our neighbours and allies," one well-placed source said.

Western diplomats here also say they believe Kuwait is moving towards a more democratic system but is considering measures which could limit parliamentary powers.

"They will have elections and a parliament but under supervision. It will not be the same kind of democracy we know (in the West)," said one diplomat.

Sheikh Saad told a local daily an elected assembly could be formed but "according to (new) basis and regulations... (to ensure) the non-repetition of the experiences of 1976 and 1986" when parliaments were dissolved.

## Najibullah moves to shore up shaky political position

KABUL (R) — Afghan President Najibullah Sunday was scrambling to shore up his political position badly shaken by the March 6 coup attempt in Kabul spearheaded by rebel air force pilots.

In a blunt televised address to Mujahideen field commanders this week, Najibullah tried to paint his implacable foe, hardline guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, as their worst enemy.

He said coup leader Shahnawaz Tanai, his now sacked defence minister who was last seen by reporters in a cave hideout in Logar province about 50 kilometres south of Kabul and commanding one of the roads leading to the Afghan capital.

The Mujahideen appear to

have made significant gains in the battle for Khost, a small garrison town about 160 kilometres southeast of Kabul and commanding one of the roads leading to the Afghan capital.

The Mujahideen forces captured

the village of Tanai and two other security posts in Khost district which the guerrillas have been trying to seize for months, Bakhtar news agency reported at the weekend.

The village of Tanai is also the family home of the coup leader.

Government troops repulsed a heavy attack on Jalalabad this week, the news agency said. Mujahideen have been trying to take the city east of Kabul for over a year and make it the capital of their interim government.

The March 6 coup coincided with the first anniversary of the battle for Jalalabad, which launched the Mujahideen offensive to oust Najibullah following the Soviet troops withdrawal.

The Kabul Valley has re-

verberated to the firing of Soviet-made Scud missile and to warplanes heading east and south to the battlefields in Khost and Jalalabad over the past several

days.

The government Saturday said trials would begin soon for those arrested in the "Shahnawaz-Gulbuddin coup plot." Diplomats in Kabul estimate about 100 people have been arrested so far.

Najibullah has promoted 52 officers to the rank of general since the coup in an effort to create a military leadership he can trust.

The government Saturday released an official report on loss of life and property in the叛乱, which said 95 people were killed and 172 were injured mostly in an aerial bombardment of the presidential palace and other parts of the capital by rebel warplanes and in exchanges of fire between rival tanks in the streets.

The report said 230 shops and 55 homes were destroyed and hundreds of other buildings damaged.

Diplomats said Najibullah may come under renewed pressure to step aside as a gesture of national reconciliation.

Some diplomats do not rule out the possibility that Moscow may end its support for Najibullah's government in a deal with the United States to end the 11-year-old Afghan civil war.

Najibullah, whose name means "noble man of God" took power in a Soviet-engineered move that forces his predecessor Babrak Karmal into exile.

## Bahrain defends Iraq over execution of journalist

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Bahrain voiced its support for Iraq's execution of British-based journalist Farzad Bazoft and accused the West of interfering in Iraq's affairs, a Kuwaiti daily reported Sunday.

"When Iraq executed that spy (Bazoft), it did so according to its laws... it was not appropriate for Iraq to face this unfair media campaign," Bahrain's Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ben Sulman Al Khalifa was quoted as telling Al Seyassah newspaper.

Iranian-born Bazoft, 31, who worked for Britain's Observer newspaper, was hanged in Iraq Thursday after being convicted of espionage. Iraq said he was arrested gathering information last September near a secret military plant southwest of Baghdad.

Bahrain ignored international appeals for clemency and the execution triggered a row with Britain and some of its Western allies.

The newspaper quoted Sheikh Khalifa as adding that the West "must respect the internal affairs of the Arab World... the Arab states do not want to have ties of enmity with international regimes."

He underlined Iraq's right to protect its national security and "deal firmly with those guilty of dealing and spying for foreign factions," the newspaper said.

Several of Kuwait's state-controlled newspapers have also backed Iraq's execution of Bazoft and Al Rai Al Aam daily accused him Saturday of working on plans for a military strike against Iraq's strategic installations.

"We drink from the sea many times because of British stands, so it is okay for (British Prime Minister Margaret) Mrs. Thatcher to drink from the sea (this time)," Kuwait's Al Watan newspaper said in a front page editorial Sunday.

Iraqi diplomats in the Gulf have been meeting their Arab allies to explain Bazoft's case and offer proof of his guilt, diplomats said.

A Soviet television commentator said Saturday that the execution went against the norms of behaviour in the civilised world.

The remarks of Yevgeny Kiselev came in the main evening television news bulletin after it showed huge crowds protesting outside the British embassy in Baghdad over Britain's condemnation of the execution.

The government newspaper Izvestia said its journalists could not attempt to judge whether Bazoft was guilty of spying. "But we are firmly convinced that a sentence of death on a journalist is a measure that is totally unacceptable in the civilised world."

"And we hope that view is shared by all our colleagues in the Soviet Union and other countries," Izvestia commentator A. Anichkin said.

Kiselev told millions of Soviet viewers whose country is linked to Iraq by a friendship treaty and military cooperation agreements, that he and his colleagues at Moscow television agreed with Izvestia.

"And I would say personally that I agree even more in that a foreign reporter was involved," he added.

For decades Soviet journalists and the Moscow media refrained from any criticism of governments of countries with which the

## Authorities move to address problems of refugee camps

ZARQA (J.T.) — The government will undertake a long-term development programme to improve conditions for refugee camp residents in cooperation with several government departments and concerned institutions.

This was announced Sunday by Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs, at a meeting here following an extensive inspection tour of three Palestinian refugee camps in Zarqa governorate.

Qatanani and a number of officials and representatives of the camps drew up a plan which will be submitted to the concerned authorities.

The tour was prompted by last week's report by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, about the miserable conditions in the Sukneeh refugee camp. Camp residents complained about lack of basic services. Camp residents said they needed water and postal services, road networks and health centres as well as care for many handicapped children in the camp.



Makeshift shelters, muddy streets, and unsanitary environment are only part of the problems plaguing some of the refugee camps in Jordan, not to mention the lack of some of the basic services (Petra photo)

Qatanani said the government directly or indirectly is involved in providing services and assistance to 13 Palestinian refugee camps of which three are not recognised by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). Sukneeh, Madaba and Husein camps are not recognised by UNRWA, according to government sources.

Accompanied by Zarqa Governor Mohammad Shobaki, Qatanani and other officials toured Sukneeh, Hittin and Zarqa camps and heard demands by their residents about the need for roads, a cemetery, a youth club, vocational and community centres in addition to basic services like water, electricity and post offices.

"The government has provided land for the camps and is paying rent to the owners," Qatanani said. "The refugee camps are in bad need of reorganisation in

terms of streets and housing units, a project for which political decisions are required," he added.

Qatanani said that the refugee camps could not be transformed into permanent residence for the Palestinians, and can only serve as a shelter, otherwise the "refugee character" of the camps

will be removed, he said. The status of refugee camps has been decided upon by the Arab World as a whole and through a unified resolution, Qatanani added.

"Our department will embark on measures designed to improve conditions like asphalted roads, removing old posts and wires

which constitute danger to the residents and their homes," Qatanani said.

Qatanani called on the local residents to cooperate with the Water Authority which has expressed readiness to link each home with the sewerage system for a JD 60 fee to be paid in three instalments.

## Police report series of drug busts, arrests

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Sunday announced the interception and seizure of 1,089 kilogrammes of hashish, 737 grammes of heroin, 1,329 grammes of opium and 270 capsules of pills.

The PSD's anti-narcotics department director, Brigadier Ghaleb Al Zoubi, said 72 persons, including two women, mostly of non-Jordanian nationalities were arrested. They were involved either in using the drugs themselves, carrying the drugs to others, smuggling the drugs across the border and the desert regions or hiding the stuff.

The seizures and arrests were made between November 1989 and March 10, and all those arrested have either received prison terms or awaiting trial, Zoubi reported.

In one of the cases, 272.5 kilogrammes of hashish were found loaded on donkeys and mules near Sabba within Mafrqa Governorate but the traffickers fled when they were spotted by the security forces, Zoubi explained.

He said three non-Jordanian nationals were seized in November trying to smuggle 31 kilogrammes of hashish destined for Jordan, and the authorities seized 203 grammes of hashish at the port of Aqaba but no arrests were made for lack of evidence.

Towards the end of November police arrested six non-Jordanians carrying 127 grammes of hashish, apparently for their own use, and on Dec. 3 for Jordanians were caught carrying 288 grammes of hashish, Zoubi revealed.

In January of this year, he said police were tipped about a cache of hashish near the desert region of Azraq and nearly 1,900 grammes of hashish were found hidden in a hole dug in that area.

On Dec. 21 Zoubi said 1,030

## Private sector urged to assume leading role in tourism promotion

By Salameh Ne'matt  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Kabariti said Sunday the private sector was more capable of coping with the supply and demand mechanism in the market than the government and said his ministry's role would be limited to encouraging and guiding private sector investments.

Addressing the first meeting of the recently-established Tourism Development Council, Kabariti said the private sector "has proven that it is more capable of management than the government and the ministry's policy is to facilitate the private sector's role."

He told the meeting that he did not believe the ministry should play a major role in initiating investments in tourism. Rather, "our goal is to encourage and guide investments by the private

sector within our capabilities."

The minister called on the Tourism Development Council, comprising hotel owners, travel agents and representatives of Royal Jordanian and the U.S. Agency for International Development, to express their own options on new investments and the expansion of existing ones.

Kabariti, who is also a deputy representing Ma'an, said that the devaluation of the dinar had created "an ideal environment for tourism in the country." However, he added, "the political climate could be described as rather unhealthy."

"We only hope that tourism does not become the victim of arguments and ignorance. We hope that tourism in Jordan has great elements for success."

Kabariti, pointing out the need for a new approach for tourism promotion, said the ministry had an annual budget of JD 70,000 to

promote Jordan all over the world. "The ministry used to spread that amount in promotion all over the world in markets where we cannot compete. Now we want to concentrate on three or four markets such as Italy and France, for example, so that we can move to two or three other markets after we succeed in our initial plan," he said.

The Tourism Development Council, financed by Royal Jordanian, USAID and ministry sources, has an initial budget of \$50,000 and hopes to raise it to \$850,000 with possible contributions from Arab funds.

"We must work together towards realising tourism as the backbone of the economy," Kabariti remarked. "If we look at the figures on the balance of payments we find that tourism and remittances from Jordanian expatriates are the two major sources of revenue."

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Sunday returned home from Sanaa after heading the Jordanian side to the Joint Higher Jordanian-Yemeni Committee, which concluded its meetings there earlier Sunday.

In an arrival statement, Badran said that he conveyed to North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh His Majesty King Hussein's and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's greetings.

Badran said he discussed with President Saleh bilateral relations and issues of interest to the Arab Nation.

He said President Saleh briefed him on the steps his country has so far taken on the path of achieving unity between the two Yemens. Badran voiced Jordan's full support of the Yemeni efforts, and said it was a step on the way for achieving Arab unity.

Upon arrival in Amman, Badran was received by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh, cabinet ministers and the North Yemeni charge d'affaires in Amman.

Earlier in the day, the Regent attended the graduation ceremony of a new batch of combat pilots and pilot trainees at a Royal Jordanian Air Force base.

His Royal Highness Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday called for closer cooperation between the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) and Yarmouk University on the one hand and the local community on the other.

Prince Hassan, speaking during a meeting with the JUST board, stressed the need for achieving the maximum possible degree of interaction between the two universities and the Irbid Industrial Estate.

He emphasised the need for striking a balance between expenditures or investment projects and revenues expected from them when drawing up regional and sectoral plans for investment projects.

The Crown Prince noted that "pluralism and diversity do not conflict with national belonging and allegiance, but rather contribute to enhancing our national unity."

The JUST board members reassured Prince Hassan that the university seeks to maintain an organic link with the community and has therefore decided to undertake an evaluation of the university's four-year progress.

## Milk price to go up

SALT (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture will soon raise the price of a kilogramme of fresh milk to 200 fils up from 170 fils, Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabyat said Sunday.

The Minister, who spoke at a meeting in Salt following a tour of several cattle farms within Balqa Governorate, said that the increase in price was made in light of a study prepared by the ministry on the production cost of milk in Jordan.

The question of milk prices was among various issues discussed by the minister at the meeting, which was attended by members of the board of directors and the general assembly of the Balqa Cattle Farmers Cooperative Society. The minister expressed appreciation of the society's endeavours to promote the country's livestock wealth and discussed complaints about difficulties the society was encountering, especially the rising cost of production.

## Jordan, N. Yemen sign broad accord

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## Ensour tours potash buyers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Managing Director of the Arab Potash Company (APC) Ali Ensour Sunday started a tour of several Asian nations which import Jordanian potash to discuss more potash sales.

Ensour said that the countries he was visiting annually import about 80 per cent of Jordan's total potash production. He said talks will cover the importers' needs of potash during 1990.

Ensour's tour came in the wake of an announcement here that APC has signed contracts with a major investment company to conduct detailed feasibility studies on expanding the company's production capacity.

"India imports half a million tonnes of Jordanian potash annually, which earns the country \$50 million," Ensour said. Jordan owns 54 per cent of the shares owned by the Arab Mining Company, Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Development Bank.

The deal with India, the major importer of APC products, was concluded during a visit to Delhi by a company team led by Suleiman Huwari.

He said that the Minerals and Metals Trading Company of India had recently signed a contract with APC to import 250,000 tonnes of potash which will be shipped over the coming five months to earn the country some \$25 million.

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The committee will discuss financing, the location of the projected academy, the type of courses and the relationship between the academy and other Jordanian institutions concerned with Islamic studies, according to the announcement.

The committee groups Faqir, Dr. Nasseruddin Al Assad, Kamel Sharif, Dr. Ishaq Al Farhan, Sheikh Izzeddin Al Mufit, Sheikh Nooh Salman, Dr. Ibrahim Zaid Kilani, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi and Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Saleh.

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## Jordan Times

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## The 'rights' and the 'wrongs'

TWO "RIGHTS" are on a collision course over the situation in Lithuania: First and foremost is the right of Moscow to insist that none of its 15 republics break away from the union in a disorderly manner and without due process of law. There would be utter confusion and instability not only within the Soviet Union but also elsewhere in the world if parts of recognised countries secede unilaterally. In the case of Lithuania, the republic's parliament declared independence from the Soviet Union unilaterally last week and without following the Soviet constitutional steps to realise that big decision.

The second right is of course the right of the Lithuanians to exercise their well-enshrined and undisputed right to self-determination which no country or principle of domestic or international law can deny them. What adds credence to this right to self-determination for the Lithuanian people is the fact that Lithuania was an independent nation and internationally recognised as such ever since 1918 only to arbitrarily lose that cherished status and join the Soviet Union in 1940 not through the exercise of the right to self-determination but rather as a consequence of the infamous non-aggression pact between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany. There is a cardinal principle in private and public laws that an action or decision which is based on a wrong is *ipso facto* wrong too. There is no claim even by Moscow that the Lithuanian people had freely and lawfully acquiesced to joining the Soviet Union during the reign of the notorious Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. What transpired in 1940 was an agreement between two "tyrants" over the heads of their peoples and the least that one can say about that ignominious treaty is that it is null and void under international law.

There is but one way to redress the wrongs of the past and the wrong of the Lithuanian parliament to declare unilaterally its secession from Moscow, and that is, to conduct as early as possible a national referendum in Lithuania to measure the degree of support or lack of it to the independence declaration by the Lithuanian parliament. All the fatal shortcomings in the Lithuanian decision to break away from Moscow in a unilateral and arbitrary manner can therefore be rectified by holding a referendum under fair and free conditions.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

In an editorial Sunday, Al Ra'i daily discussed a meeting between former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Crown Prince Hassan the Regent who discussed the Middle East question and prospects for an international Middle East peace conference. The Prince urged Carter to do all he can in his mediation to bring about a settlement stressing the importance of the international conference to achieve an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands including Jerusalem. The Regent pointed out that continued Jewish immigration into Palestine is bound to aggravate the present situation and pose a real threat to the peace process. The question of improving conditions for the Palestinian people under Israeli rule were also discussed with Prince Hassan stressing that no improvement in living conditions could serve as a substitute for peace and a lasting solution, the paper noted. What the Prince stressed to Carter was Jordan's firm policy and continuous effort to achieve an exchange of land for peace, the paper noted. It said that the peace process does not tolerate further procrastinations and delays and cannot remain deadlocked because of Israel's practices. All peace-loving nations, said the paper, should realize the facts about the situation in the region but the United States ought to take the initiative in proving its good intentions and credibility by solving the conflict.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's statement on Saturday in which he stated that the Americans do not want to see the Palestinians as slaves. Tareq Masa'weh notes that the Americans who have been providing Israel with all forms of military and economic aid are accessories to the crimes being committed by the Israelis in Palestine. The writer notes that the Israelis do not recognise the rights of the Palestinian people and refuse to recognise that the Palestinians are citizens of Palestine and are trying by all means to uproot them from their homes and lands. Since the Israelis are enslaving the Palestinians and stealing their property, and since the United States is a declared ally of Israel, providing it with all kinds of assistance to perpetuate its occupation of Palestine, then it is natural to conclude that the United States is an accessory to the crime of enslaving the Palestinian people. The writer notes that Carter displayed a great measure of optimism about a speedy end to the conflict in the Middle East but he says that there is no justification for such optimism in view of the situation in the area and Israel's inhuman practices in the occupied lands.

Following the downfall of the Israeli government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Zionists in the United States have embarked on a wide scale campaign against President Bush and his administration, said Al Dustour Sunday. The paper noted that Bush is being attacked for his criticism of Israel's settlement policy and for describing the absorption of Jews in Arab lands as a step that does not help the peace process.

## Weekly Political Pulse

# Parties to peace process need to keep momentum

By Waleed Sadi

MANY countries and parties have rushed to claim credit for precipitating the Israeli cabinet crisis and for bringing down Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir from power. In fact it was the recent U.S. diplomacy in the Middle East in general and Secretary of State James Baker's proposal for Palestinian-Israeli talks that have brought about the government crisis in Israel by bringing to the head the deep division not only within the Israeli cabinet but also within the entire country. Yet this American success could not have come about without the ongoing Palestinian intifada and the patient and conciliatory policies of the PLO. It will be remembered that the PLO under Chairman Yasser Arafat had gone more than half way to meet the demands of the community of nations in a bid to kick off peace talks in the Middle East. This Palestinian initiative has continued despite of all the many temptations to forsake it in favour of a more aggressive and confrontational

policy in the occupied territories. This has enabled Washington to persist with its deepest involvement ever in the Middle East peace process which culminated in Baker's formula for peace talks. What remains to be done is to have the PLO persevere in its peaceful path by rejecting all calls for militancy. The chance of a lifetime to start collecting on this long-durated Palestinian investment in peace may have indeed arrived; it would be catastrophic if all the time and energy spent on it are allowed to be derailed by extremism of whatever nature or source.

This is not to suggest that the path of peace henceforth and in the wake of the fall of Shamir and his doctrinaire ideas will be strewn with roses. Rather it is a suggestion to persevere a little longer and explore the possibilities of peace in the new political era until the bitter end before turning sour and seeking other alternatives in which there

might not be any winners or losers. For even if the Israeli Labour Party assumes power under the leadership of Shimon Peres there are no assurances yet that it has truly changed colour and opted for peace with the Palestinian people under the PLO's leadership. As a matter of fact the utterances of the leadership of the Labour constituencies, past and present, on the role of the PLO in the peace talks are notably as negative as those of the Likud with whom they professed deep division on the issue of war and peace in the Middle East. There is, nevertheless, always hope that behind the Labour rhetoric against PLO involvement in the projected Palestinian-Israeli talks, there remains a reservoir of common sense and realism which seeks to seize upon the rare opportunity offered by the PLO to strike a deal of a lifetime between the two sides. If this happens, then the leadership of Yasser Arafat and his policies would have

been vindicated. If not, then Arafat's gamble on peace would have to be declared bankrupt, null and void, for as long as one can gaze into the future. The final arbiter of the entire peace process will of course be the Israeli voters who will be soon asked once again to cast their votes not only to choose their representatives in the Knesset but also to choose between peace or war in this region. Surely, the Israeli people will be hampered with the prospect of yet another conflagration in the Middle East in which mass destructive weapons are anticipated to be deployed. The choice of war instead of peace in the Middle East will surely bring disaster to present and future generations of Arabs as well as Israelis. This cataclysmic probability will surely sober up the Israeli electorate to the truth that awaits them if they allow the chances of peace in the region to slip away.

Still, over and above the call on the Palestinians to perse-

vere and the Israelis to exercise wise judgment when they vote next time around, Washington is also called upon to persevere as well with a view to completing what it has started to do in the first place. Any American wavering or weakening of resolve would have immeasurable negative effects on the entire peace process which is still hanging by a thread. Above all, if U.S. financial or military aid must continue to pour into Israel, come rain or sunshine, the least that the Arab side would hope for is to have such impulsive aid organically linked not only with the beginning of peace talks in the Middle East but also to the success of these talks. It is one thing to start negotiations between Israel and the Arabs and quite another to have the talks come to fruition. And as long as Israel's self-confidence, economically and militarily, gets always fortified to the extent that leaves the Jewish state with no real incentive to bar-

## Why Palestinians lose out in the U.S.

By Alfred M. Lilienthal

FORTY TWO years after the creation of the state of Israel and the onset of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, no settlement is yet in sight.

Neither the turmoil and bloodshed in the West Bank and Gaza nor the devastation of Lebanon has moved the American government to use Israel's dependency (to the tune of an annual \$3.5 billion subsidy) to press its government to be more forthcoming. Arafat's acceptance at Algiers and Geneva of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 and the renunciation of terrorism have only been met by Shamir's elections proposal and the Mubarak and Baker amendments, none of which accept the sine qua non to peace, the right of the Palestinians to establish a state in their own homeland.

### The power of the Israeli lobby

What remains totally unalterable and decisive is the never-faltering power in the United States of the Zionists and the pro-Israeli forces. The lobby and its adjuncts are even more effective today than when they influenced President Truman in 1947 to push for the creation of Israel at the United Nations and then to recognise this state seven minutes after it came into being. Such action, it must be remembered, was taken over the opposition of Secretary of State George Marshall, Secretary of Defence James Forrestal, and Under-Secretary of State Dean Acheson.

Despite the invasion of Lebanon, the Sabra-Shatila massacres, the Iran-contra scandal, the Pollard affair and the intifada, the plethora of Arab-American groups supporting the goals of the Palestine Liberation Organisation have made scarcely a dent in Zionist power and have failed to advance their cause in a practical, political sense. True, Israel's stock has greatly declined since the television coverage of the intifada began to expose the brutal treatment of Palestinians, but public opinion has not moved in favour of the Palestinians, nor have inroads been made in the White House and in Congress, which count most.

The PLO still conjures up the terrorist image. And Palestinian factionalism causes many Americans to react: "The Palestinians are killing one another, so why should we concern ourselves about their fate?" And the internecine rivalry among Arab-American groups here only reinforces this image of disunity. The media has been enabled to play upon the execution of some 140 Palestinian alleged collaborators and the killing of 40 Israelis to smother the slaying by the Israeli military or settlers of over 750 Palestinian civilians.

### Mubarak on a tightrope

Mubarak's Egypt is totally dependent on America's \$1.5 billion subsidy which Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and the ensuing Camp David Accords earned for his country. The Egyptian president is forced to walk a tightrope between a friendship with the Palestinian leadership, whose cause he would like to advance, and his dependency on the U.S. Egypt's foreign minister, Ismail Abdul Maguid, conveniently absented himself from the Arab League meeting in Tunis in De-

### Focus on anti-Semitism

Whenever and wherever the state of Israel encounters obstacles in its hitherto successful move to exclude the PLO, the media have proved willing to help rescue the Zionist entity by focusing attention on the Holocaust or some past anti-Semitic incident. This has been particularly true of The Washington Post and even more so of the influential New York Times, where scarcely a day passes without the appearance of some prominent reference to bigotry, past or present, against Jews.

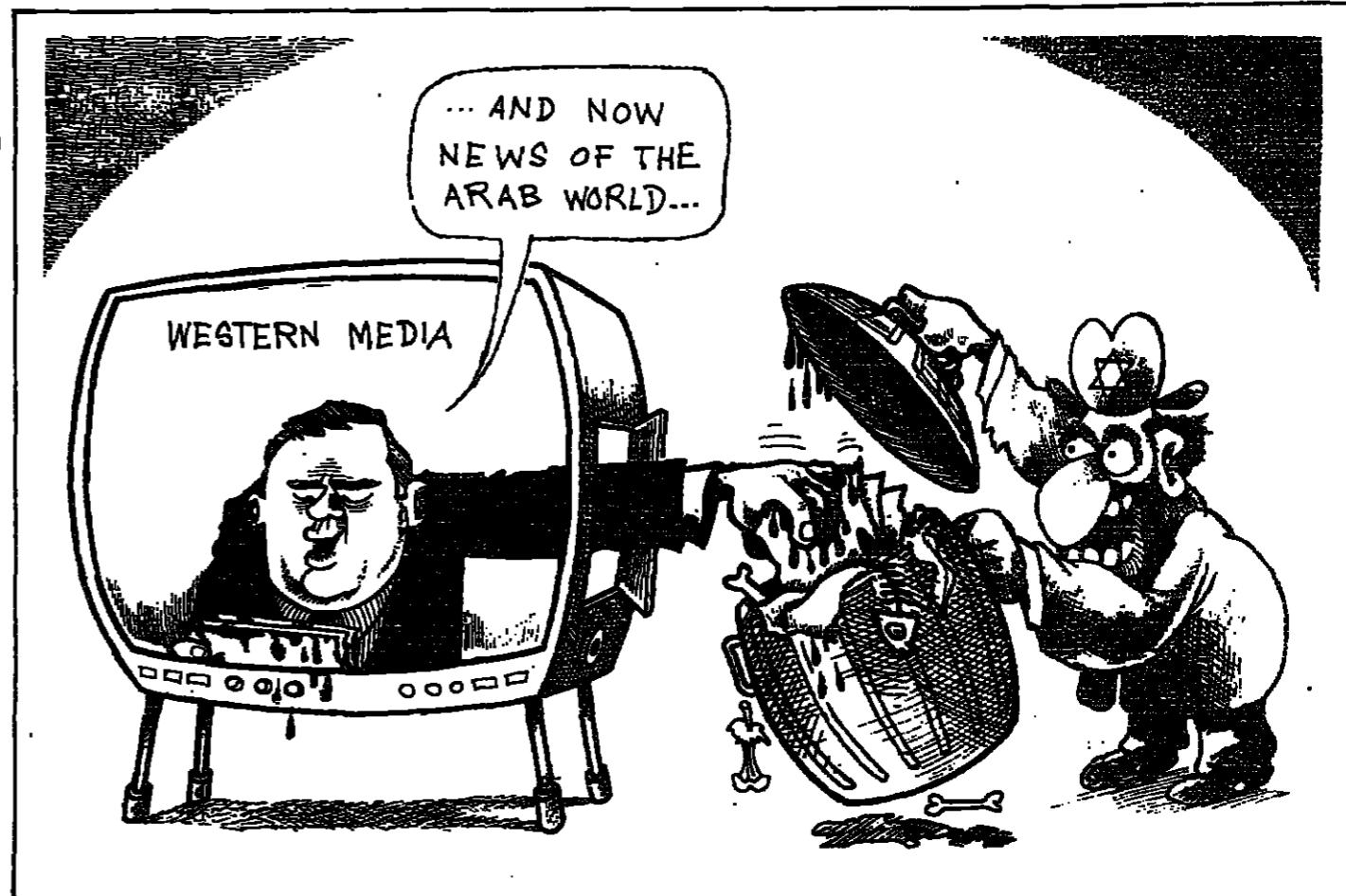
The Palestinians do not seem to comprehend how the Holocaust and anti-Semitism are by far the most effective weapons in the Zionist bag of tricks. Apparently they do not understand that it is not Palestinian rights or wrongs versus Israeli rights or wrongs that govern public attitudes and governmental action towards the Middle East, but Judeo-Christian relations.

Nothing has produced more myth-information and favourable propaganda for Israel than the emphasis placed on the Holocaust. This, of course, helps divert attention from the revelations which increasingly tarnish the Israeli image. The latest were the exposure of an Israeli, Mike Harari, as the chief political adviser to Panama's General Noriega, and the likelihood that Nicolae Ceausescu was paid, according to the Israeli paper *Yediot Ahronot*, \$5,000-\$7,500 for every exit visa issued to Romanian Jews. Up to \$60m, raised by various Jewish organisations over the past 20 years, is said to have ended up in the dictator's pocket.

### The importance of public relations

The year of 1989, which started with no much promise for a Middle East settlement, ended with the Palestinians in the occupied territories sunk in gloom. In the course of the intifada, they have sacrificed so much, and the PLO-U.S. talks have yielded so little. Yet the United States can now more easily exert the necessary pressure on Israel. The momentous changes in Eastern Europe have diminished the validity of the Zionist contention that the U.S. needs Israeli military might in the Middle East as a buffer to threats of Communist expansion.

In December, Khalid Al Has-



san, one of Yasser Arafat's most trusted advisers, was dispatched to Washington for talks and study. As a result, perhaps past Palestinian disdain for the art of public relations and imagery will be reappraised by the PLO leadership in Tunis, with a better understanding of why its cause is making so little progress where it counts most.

In truth, the PLO cannot

escape from coming to grips with the overpowering, ever-pervading exploitation of the Holocaust. It behoves them, through a deftly planned educational programme or some similar stratagem, to prove to Americans that their animosity is directed not against Jews with whom they had lived peacefully for millennia, but against Zionists who seek to totally dominate them. To insist

that Judaism is not Zionism, that Zionism is not Judaism, and to be anti-Zionist is not to be anti-Semitic, is not nitpicking, but is of the essence. Without acceptance of this dogma, there is little hope that a two-state solution, Israel and Palestine co-existing together, will ever be realised.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's national security adviser,

wrote in the New York Times about changes in Eastern Europe: "Freedom of choice is the foundation of the new order." Do not the Palestinians deserve to be part of this newly emancipated world? And who can say they will not if only they can overcome their seemingly congenital incapacity for collaboration? — Middle East International, London.

## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts



## On 'Contemporary Art in the Islamic World'

By Nicola A. Ziadeh

HISTORIANS of Islamic arts (and architecture) have been at loss to identify the most suitable way of dealing with the subject. The various branches of artistic expression which appeared and developed over such a long period and in an area as vast as any civilisation has covered, and more importantly are still being produced, certainly present difficulties. Could an art historian treat the whole thing as one unit? The answer is, mostly, "No." Should the subject be divided according to countries? Or to periods? No satisfactory answer is possible.

All methods, by the way, have been tried. Besides, some art historians seek, or even see, a unity in Islamic art (or arts) which guides them, or forces them, to deal with their topics almost spiritually or something like that.

**Medical Aid for Palestinians comes to Jordan**

By Sana Atiyeh

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The London-based charity organisation Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), which provides medical help to Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories and to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, will establish a chapter in Jordan soon, according to the MAP representative in the Kingdom, Nadia Alami.

Alami told the Jordan Times that the MAP chapter in Jordan, whose honorary chairman will be His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, is the fifth outside its London headquarters. It is now in the final stages of its registration as a charity organisation in the Kingdom, Nadia Alami.

The Jordan chapter, whose executive chairman is Abdul Majid Shoman, chairman of the Arab Bank, will be one of the most important for MAP because Jordan is the first stop for many of the wounded in the Palestinian uprising, some of whom we plan to treat," Alami said.

MAP's fund-raising activities are expected to be held soon after the final registration of Jordan's chapter. Three days of activities are scheduled to take place in Amman in May, with the participation of international celebrities, such as pro-Palestinian British actress Vanessa Redgrave.

Also participating is Dr. Swee Chai Ang, one of the founders of MAP and author of "From Beirut to Jerusalem" — memoirs of her experience with Palestinian refugees during the Sabra and Shatila mas-

sacres in 1982 and the years that followed.

No major MAP activities have taken place in Jordan, but two fundraising dinners were held in Amman in 1988 and 1989 and a hospitalisation scheme was funded for poor patients from the Baqaa refugee camp, co-financed by the committee of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

MAP was established as a charity organisation after the Sabra and Shatila massacres under the slogan of "for the relief of poverty and sickness and the advancement of education amongst refugees and other displaced persons and in particular, those refugees displaced from Palestine," Alami explained.

Cooperating with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Save the Children, Oxfam, NORWAC and other international non-government organisations, MAP — which describes itself as a non-political humanitarian organisation — concentrates on helping civilian victims of war and works closely with the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS). The organisation also treats non-Palestinians. "In Lebanon we treated many non-Palestinians, especially children with special needs," Alami said.

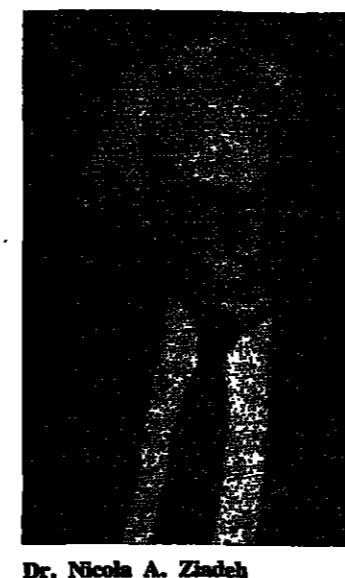
She said MAP had received international recognition, and was well-known for the efforts of the staff and volunteers to bring the world and arousing humanitarian interest on Palestinian victims whether in refugee camps in Lebanon or

"This book focuses on bringing together the cultural differences between the Islamic and Western traditions, which in my opinion, would develop a pre-eminent understanding and consequently improve relationships among the people and countries of these two civilisations."

The arts treated in the book include painting on canvas, sculptures, graphics and ceramics. And the various authors who contributed the material are well-known authorities and have written with knowledge and warmth; I always feel that writing about art must have some passion, because the "pieces" themselves are produced under compassionate circumstances.

It is hardly possible to give such a book its due in a daily — it must have (and probably already has had) a fuller treatment and from the pen of an art historian with an "eye," not just an historian whose

Dr. Nicola Abdo Ziadeh, 82, is a retired professor who has taught at the American University of Beirut, Harvard University, the University of Jordan and the Lebanese University. He has written numerous books on Arab and Islamic history and civilisation, and has prepared about 1,400 radio scripts, both in English and Arabic. In today's Jordan Times, Dr. Ziadeh resumes a series of articles after a two-year break.



Dr. Nicola A. Ziadeh

only artistic training is appreciation — and this through museums and books.

Here the reader finds in each chapter a brief account of the more recent development of art in the country concerned, with variations depending on certain activities, such as galleries and institutes (Jordan) etc. This is followed by brief biographical notes on artists of the country, with — and here lies the real beauty

and benefit of the volume under discussion — ample illustrations both coloured and black and white.

This is a magnificent volume — rich, informative, instructive and gently attending to — no doubt by Princess Wijdan.

*Contemporary Art in the Islamic World, Princess Wijdan Ali, Scorpion Publishing Limited, London, 1989.*



A mother watches over a young intifada victim in Makassed hospital. The intifada means many such cases are treated by MAP staff.

in the occupied lands.

"Hundreds of newspapers, radio and television interviews were conducted with well-known MAP volunteers, Drs. Swee Ang and Pauline Cutting, both of whom have written books about Palestinian suffering in Lebanon, and addressed thousands of meetings and conferences worldwide. Pauline (author of "Children of the Siege" about the Palestinian camp siege in Beirut in 1985, and Suzie Wighton, a MAP nurse, both have received the Order of the British Empire (OBE) and Member of the British Empire

occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, providing hospitalisation schemes, specialised volunteer doctors, surgeons, physiotherapists and nurses, laboratory equipment and other medical equipment, she said. The organisation, working with Palestinian staff and training them, provides professional and material assistance through hospitals, health centres and the popular health committees.

"With the intifada going on, Palestinians inside the occupied territories need our utmost medical help, especially in light of the poor availability of medical and health facilities there," Alami said.

MAP has 22 projects in the

II," Alami noted.

She added that MAP had

received recognition from the

British government, including

the Conservative and Labour

parties, the Liberal Democrat

and Social Democratic parties,

as well as trade unions, profes-

sional organisations and reli-

gious foundations.

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ped territories need our

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cially in light of the poor avail-

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facilities there," Alami said.

Although MAP is presently

preoccupied with the occupied

territories, Alami said, there

are also several projects for

Palestinian refugees in

Lebanon.

## House

(Continued from page 1) positive that it will reduce revenues by JD 20 million. If you and the committee can convince me otherwise, I am willing to listen."

When near the end of the discussion Elouan declared that "this is a waste of time and there is no need to reconsider the committee's amendment," Jordanshah tried to leave the floor, but was stopped by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sheikh Abd al-Baqi Gammoh and Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin.

House Speaker Suleiman Arar swiftly intervened with a proposal to resume discussions Thursday after being a full report by the finance minister. The proposal was endorsed with a majority show of hands.

## Carter

(Continued from page 1)

by Secretary of State James Baker last year was "compatible with the Camp David accord."

The Baker proposal calls for a meeting of the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt and the U.S. to pave the ground for the proposed dialogue, which will focus on Israel's plans to hold elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In reply to a question, Carter said his understanding was that the Palestine Liberation Organisation "had indeed approved" this process. And I would guess that the delegation that will be chosen to represent the Palestinian community in the West Bank and Gaza will be well understood by the PLO leadership."

## School dropout turns novelist

By Paul Bea-Itzak  
Reuter

SAN FRANCISCO — For Holly Uyemoto, author of a well-reviewed new novel called *Rebel Without a Clue*, the path to literary success began when she dropped out of school.

"I was told by teachers and peers alike that I was not very intelligent," recalls Uyemoto, 20, whose book centres on the lives of teenagers, one of whom has AIDS, in a wealthy area of California.

"What really tore it," she said, was discovering that her name was on a list of students destined for a high school that had a student body largely comprised of

my degree," she said, using a word of derision that she apparently coined herself.

After leaving school Uyemoto toiled away instead on a novel, finishing a rough draft in just three weeks. She sold it to the third literary agent she approached.

The book was released in November by Crown Books to mostly positive reviews.

"Uyemoto...delves into the flashy, sometimes fatal, world of easy money, sex and drugs, and emerges with a terrific book," a New York Times reviewer wrote of the book.

The novel is set in California's affluent Marin County, north of San Francisco.

It is there that Thomas Bainbridge, the world's most successful male model, returns to tell his best friend, Christian Delon, that he has contracted AIDS.

Christian, a recent high school graduate, narrates the tale.

Reviewers and Uyemoto's editor praise her ability to capture the way people really talk.

"Her words on the page sound as if they came out of a human mouth," said Lisa Healy, editor

at Crown.

Healy was also impressed by a first novel that is not autobiographical and one in which a female author writes from a male perspective.

"You very seldom see someone make such an imaginative leap in voice, particularly in the first person," Healy said.

Uyemoto is more modest.

"I see myself as hanging by knees from the bottom rung of the ladder of literary credibility, swinging back and forth," the author said during an interview, frequently pausing to find the right phrase or suddenly bursting into laughter.

Uyemoto says she is nothing like her characters, who take drugs as easily as some people take vitamins. She claims that in person she is just the opposite.

"I'm embarrassed to be me," she said.

"I say things in my writing that I never get to say while I'm in the car with the guy who's telling me that I'm just a soulless pod, and then he pushes me out and tries to back over me unsuccessfully with his car...metaphorically speaking," she said.

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## OPEC agrees to renew ceilings

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — OPEC ministers agreed Saturday to restrain oil production in coming months to try to keep crude prices high, but some member nations have violated production quotas before.

The ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) wound up six hours of talks by renewing their support for a target price of \$18 a barrel.

They also decided anew to carry into the April-June quarter their current production ceiling of a little more than 12 million barrels a day. The cap was set last November for the first six months of the year . . . but has been broken.

Led by Kuwait and the 13-nation Arab Emirates, the group has been pumping as much as 23.7 million barrels a day, according to analysts.

The United Arab Emirates will likely continue pumping about

two million barrels a day, double its quota. The emirates did not sign onto the November agreement setting the current production ceiling.

Kuwait Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al Sabah has reportedly said his country does not have to abide by its quota when prices are above \$18.

To meet the output cap, some of the countries would have to cut production.

"We expect that we will withdraw some quantities from the market during the (coming) months," Algerian Mines Minister Sadek Bousenna, who presided over the meeting, told reporters. "This at least could avoid a decrease in the prices..."

An OPEC report predicted demand would slump in the April-June period to 20.8 million barrels a day before rebounding to 21.4 million barrels a day in the third quarter.

often ignored by members. Some of the countries are producing near their limits and would likely be unable to pump much more.

But Bousenna said, "the feeling of the countries is that we still need for the short-term . . . a system of quotas."

The average price of a basket of seven crudes monitored by OPEC reached \$20.56 a barrel in the first week of January, but has been slipping since then, falling in the second week of March to \$17.91 a barrel.

Demand for the group's oil usually contracts with the approaching warm weather in the United States and other consuming nations and the price is expected to decrease in the prices..."

OPEC members are: Algeria, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

"Prices expected will go down (in the second quarter), but I don't see any catastrophe," Indonesian Oil Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita said in an interview. "I don't think it will go below \$17 (a barrel)."

The ministers opened the meeting of a special monitoring committee Friday evening at OPEC headquarters. Saturday, they huddled privately in Bousenna's suite at a luxury hotel where most stay.

Only eight ministers technically belong to the panel, but all countries were represented.

The ministers plan to meet in May to set pricing and production guidelines for the last half of the year.

The ministers opened the meeting of a special monitoring committee Friday evening at OPEC headquarters. Saturday, they huddled privately in Bousenna's suite at a luxury hotel where most stay.

## China tells jobless to consume less

HONG KONG (AP) — China's ministry of labour is tackling growing unemployment by telling jobless workers to stay home and consume less, a pro-Beijing paper has reported.

The Ta Kung Pao, citing a ministry document, also reported that the ministry will begin requiring work and temporary residence permits for peasants looking for jobs in the cities.

The new policy is an attempt to stem the growing tide of rural unemployed flooding China's cities in search of work. Last year, tens of millions of peasants converted on major cities, causing a rise in crime and social problems. More than 2.5 million flocked to Canton alone, where tens of thousands camped outside the railway station.

The report said China's cities would be even less capable this year than last of coping with the problem. Urban unemployment now hovers between four and five per cent, the paper said, more than a 100 per cent jump over January of last year. The official Chinese figure is slightly less than four per cent.

A Western China watcher in Hong Kong estimated that about 30 million in China's 550 million rural labour force are jobless. In addition, analysts say, more and more Chinese are reaching working age, putting further strain on the system.

The report said China's cities will have to look to the cities to take its unemployed. But now that avenue is being shut off.

The key to the ministry of labour policy was an eight-character couplet, the paper said: "If you're dismissed from work, don't leave your village, just consume less."

Peasants who do leave town will have to get a work permit and a temporary residence permit if they head to a large or medium-size city. In this way, the government will be able "to control the automatic increase in the urban labour force," Ta Kung Pao said.

The report did not say when the permit programme, which is bound to cause a large bureaucratic headache, would begin. China already has a policy of permanent residence permits for cities but many evade it.

### ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

#### Kuwait refineries earn \$284m

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) has earned about \$284 million in its 1989 fiscal year from the 760,000 barrels per day produced by its three local refineries. The company's financial manager, Abdul Maguid Al Taraboushi, said that about 35,000 barrels per day (b/d) of oil was consumed locally at subsidised prices while the rest was exported. Taraboushi told Reuters that KNPC's net profits in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1989, were \$3.2 million dinars (\$284.2 million) in comparison to \$75.59 million dinars (\$258.52 million) the previous year, when domestic refineries produced some 649,000 b/d. Kuwait, which currently produces about 1.9 million b/d of oil, has aggressively expanded its refining operations both at home and abroad to maximise revenue from its crude.

#### Batelco reports higher profit

BAHRAIN (R) — The Bahrain Telecommunications Company (BATELCO) has said its 1989 net profit rose by five per cent to 20.5 million dinars (\$35 million). BATELCO General Manager Brian Wood said a jump in the number of international telephone calls and growing use of facsimile machines has boosted income from international traffic by 10 per cent to 20.6 million dinars (\$35 million). He declined to give a figure for total income ahead of an annual shareholders meeting on March 24. BATELCO is owned 20 per cent by London-based Cable and Wireless PLC, 40 per cent by Bahrain's government and 40 per cent by local firms and individuals. Its shares are traded on the Bahrain Stock Exchange. Wood said the number of telephone lines in Bahrain jumped to 87,700 in 1989 from 83,000 the previous year.

#### Elf strike oil in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — The French company Elf Aquitaine has struck its first oil in the Attallah-North field in northeastern Syria with one test well producing 8,000 b/d of light crude, oil ministry officials have said. Elf, which began exploration in northeastern Syria in 1989, is yet to decide the geological reserve and production capacity of the field, they said. The officials said Elf was planning to put the field, the latest in a series of discoveries in the region, on early production. Syria, a member of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), produces around 400,000 barrels per day. Oil industry sources said Western companies to invest \$1.1 billion in exploration and production of oil and gas in 1990.

#### Iran non-oil exports increase

NICOSIA (R) — Iran exported non-oil goods worth \$669 million in the eight-month period to Nov. 21, 33.7 per cent more than the similar period in 1988, the Iranian news agency IRNA has said. Export items included hand-woven carpets, pistachio nuts and animal skins, it said. Iran's main source of foreign exchange, crude oil sales, were expected to reach \$12 billion in the year to March 20, according to official figures.

#### Judge favours executing 'terrorists'

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's top judge has vowed to crack down on corruption, saying the judiciary was ready to execute "economic terrorists" if parliament agreed. The tough talk followed warnings in press and parliament that corruption and profiteering may flourish in the new pro-business climate fostered by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. "If the parliament approves, the judiciary will go as far as execution in dealing with economic terrorists," Tehran radio quoted Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi as saying. "The judiciary will toughen its strict attitude towards saboteurs of economic affairs even in government organisations," Yazdi told Muslim clerics in the holy city of Qom. In several widely publicised embezzlement and fraud trials over the past two years, Iranian courts have handed down jail and flogging sentences and heavy fines.

#### Belgium, Libya want closer ties

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Belgium and Libya have said they want to establish closer economic relations. Belgian Trade Minister Robert Urbain said two Belgian companies have signed contracts worth \$471 million to build housing near the city of Benghaz and to explore for oil in Libya. Other contracts were being negotiated, he said. He met with his Libyan counterpart, Mohammad Madani Al Boukari, who is on an official visit to Belgium. Urbain said Belgium was Libya's largest European trade partner after Italy, West Germany and France. He said Belgium will respect European Community sanctions against the Tripoli government which include diplomatic sanctions and a ban on arms sales. The sanctions were imposed in 1986 after a Libyan embassy staffer shot and killed a police officer outside the Libyan embassy in London.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MARCH 19, 1990  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Enjoy yourself today but make a point to avoid a tendency to feel that you are being imposed upon by those around you. Extend your present success beyond present avenues.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Introduce that new acquaintance you like to your social group. Entertaining at home would very much please your household.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A warm and happy feeling should exist in special projects. At home take your attachment to meet some outside associates that will be helpful to you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have two experts you can turn to aid you in your activities. Show special depth of feeling towards confused friends now.

Capricorn: (December 22 to January 20) Go on trips to see good friends, but make sure you are careful in motion. Take your family with you on any jaunts nearby to see kin or friends.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You will be thoroughly enjoying the activities in which you now engage. There will be many different types of friends you can enjoy today.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't let a couple from afar consume all your free time socially. Praising your attachment for an accomplishment brings romantic happiness.

## Kaifu pushes trade liberalisation

TOKYO (AP) — Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has urged legislators to turn their attention to reforming structural problems in Japan's economy that contribute to its \$49 billion trade surplus with the United States.

Meanwhile, officials at Japan's trade ministry confirmed reports that they were considering changing or abolishing a law that U.S. officials say tends to prevent foreign firms from expanding their sales in Japan.

International Trade and Industry Minister Kabuto Muto, who earlier had opposed changing the large scale retail stores law, told Japanese reporters that bolder steps might have to be taken if U.S. trade officials were not satisfied with plans to ease its enforcement.

Change or abolition of the law is a key demand of U.S. trade negotiators, who contend that the law hinders foreign stores trying to open in Japan as well as the opening of large Japanese stores more likely to sell foreign-made goods than traditional mom-and-pop shops. American officials also say the number of layers in Japan's distribution system makes it inefficient and hard for foreign products to penetrate.

A ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, cautioned that Muto's comment did not mean the law definitely will be changed, but that the agency was considering possible revisions. Its attitude toward a change had shifted from negative to "neutral," he said.

"Mr. Kaifu has taken a very serious look at this and has expressed his determination to tackle this problem... things are going forward," said foreign ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe.

In parliament, Kaifu urged legislators to cooperate with his efforts to fulfill promises of structural change in the "structural impediments initiative" trade talks with the United States.

"We intend realistic efforts to carry out structural reforms. That means we must carry out reforms of our land use policies and improve the standard of living," Kaifu said during questions by

opposition legislators in the upper house.

"Our corporations are wealthy and strong, but this wealth has come at the expense of long working hours and a low standard of living. It is time to redress this imbalance," he said.

Kaifu, who last month promised U.S. President George Bush to do his best to carry out the reforms, is fighting his government's tendency to become bogged down in domestic disputes.

Japan's government has accomplished few trade related reforms in the year since it became embroiled in battles over a bribery scandal and a controversial tax.

Kaifu is urging Japan Socialist Party Chairwoman Takako Doi and other opposition leaders to abandon their attacks on the major party, who lacks clout in its own party, will have problems gathering support for reforms soon enough to satisfy the United States.

Tokyo is under pressure to show it will implement promised reforms before early April, when trade negotiators are to issue an interim report on the structural trade talks. A final report is due in July.

Meanwhile, U.S. trade negotiators have admitted "little progress" in cracking Japan's barriers to American exports and said only time will tell whether Bush's summit with Kaifu will produce results.

Two key senators threatened to launch a protectionist trade war with Japan if Tokyo does not bow to U.S. demands.

"Anti-Japanese sentiment in the United States is rising fast," said Senator Max Baucus. "Japan has a choice. It can either follow the lead of the rest of the world and open its markets or it can keep its markets closed and have the rest of the world follow its lead."

Senator John Danforth said the Bush administration "has done nothing yet to warrant congratulations" on getting Japan to open its markets, adding Congress will not accept a "public relations job which attempts to buy us off."

Farran cited a joint survey by his department and Japan's ministry of international trade and industry in November showing that 40 per cent of Japanese products are more expensive in Tokyo than in New York.

On average, he said, prices for both U.S. and other countries' products were 70 per cent higher in Japan than in the United States.

While analysts are sceptical about Kaifu's chances of following

through on his promises to Bush, the reforms are widely supported by major business organisations and the media.

Joining other business groups, the Kansai Economic Federation in western Japan has urged the government to raise taxes on farmland in major cities to the same level as residential taxes to encourage development of suburban farmland.

It also called for measures to narrow the gap between prices in Japan and overseas.

The negotiators, however, said there is no assurance that will happen, despite the mutual pledges by Bush and Kaifu at their hastily arranged summit meeting last month to redouble efforts on both sides.

The basic question is whether the Japanese side sees this as a damage control exercise — public relations — or whether they see it as requiring substantive effort," said Deputy U.S. Trade Representative S. Lynn Williams, head of the American team in the talks.

"On that point, the jury is out," Williams told the Senate Finance Subcommittee on trade chaired by Baucus. "Proof is in the results. It's too early for us to pass judgement."

J. Michael Farren, the commerce department's undersecretary for trade, said the U.S. trade deficit with Japan has improved by only \$7.3 billion, less than 15 per cent, with Japan since 1987 despite a 45 per cent devaluation of the dollar against the yen.

At the same time, he said, the U.S. deficit with West Germany has declined by half and with Korea, Taiwan and other East Asian countries it is down by 29 per cent.

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### ARMENIAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, March 18, 1990

Central Bank official rates

Buy Sell

French franc 116.8 117.5

Dutch guilder 438.6 441.2

Swiss francs 102.1 101.2

Italian lire (for 100

## Britain plans big security operation for World Cup

LONDON (AP) — The British government has ordered its biggest security operation for a sports event to try to prevent hooliganism by its soccer fans at the World Cup, it was reported Sunday.

The Sunday Telegraph quoted unidentified government sources as saying the programme would include use of British police as spotters to try to identify known soccer thugs for their Italian counterparts.

The cup, soccer's world championship, opens in 12 Italian cities June 8.

The paper also said that authorities were concerned that trouble could erupt in Genoa, where ferries departs from the Italian mainland for Sardinia, the island where the English team will be based.

The Telegraph said that, in addition, towns in France and Italy have been warned to be prepared for trouble by British fans travelling by car to Italy for the World Cup.

"This is the biggest operation the government has ever mounted for sporting event," the newspaper quoted one source as saying. "This effort is being made to save our reputation but, in spite of all this work, we have to prepare for trouble."

Last week, top British police officials said they had uncovered plans for battles at the World Cup between hooligans from England and the Netherlands.

The two teams, whose followers are among the most violent in Europe, play in the same first-round group on Sardinia and Sicily.

Another British newspaper, the Sunday Times, reported that hooligans from around the country were plotting violence at an exhibition match between England and Tunisia in Tunis June 2, and outside the stadium in the Sardinia capital of Cagliari June 16, when England and the Netherlands play.

It quoted Sean Gibbs, identified as a known hooligan from Cheetham, England, as saying he was looking forward to "some violence" at the cup.

## Capriati, Becker score more wins

KEY BISCAYNE (R) — American teenager Jennifer Capriati upset sixth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia for the second consecutive week to advance to the third round of the \$2.55 million International Players Tennis Championships Saturday.

Second-seeded Zina Garrison of the United States was upset by Julie Halard of France and men's second seed Boris Becker of West Germany struggled before defeating qualifier Fabrice Santoro of France in this second-round match of the 96-player tournament.

Top-seeds and defending champions Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia and Gabriela Sabatini were both winners.

Lendl struggled but defeated Jens Woermann of West Germany 6-3(3-7). Sabatini had fewer problems beating Sandra Wasserman of Belgium 6-3.

Fifth-seeded Coachitz Martinez of Spain outlasted South African Dinky Van Rensburg in a three hour and five minute marathon played almost entirely from the baseline.

Sixth-seeded Aaron Krickstein was upset by Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland while eighth-seeded Tim Mayotte fell easily to Soviet Alexander Volkov in other second round matches.

Capriati, who reached the finals of her first professional tournament in Boca Raton, Florida, last week by beating Sukova, said that she was

more confident and more cautious this week for that very reason.

"Today, I knew what to expect, but she also knew how to play me this time so I knew I had to play better. I think I played very well today. I wasn't really expecting to win either time, but I'm really happy I did," Capriati said.

Capriati took advantage of very erratic tennis from Sukova as well as nine double-faults, including three in one game, from Sukova's normally reliable serve.

Sukova pounded her heavy topspin groundstrokes and opened the match with a 2-0 lead before Capriati's groundstrokes caught fire and bewildered Sukova by repeatedly hitting the lines.

Sukova was bewildered by her play and had no explanation for her performance against the teenager.

"I didn't expect to play this badly. I felt I knew what to do, but when you can't hit the ball in the court, that doesn't mean anything," Sukova said.

Garrison, fourth in the world, played two loose forehands and dropped her serve at 4-4 in the final set against Halard, who kept Garrison away from the net most of the match.

Halard held her serve in the 10th game to close out the match by waiting for Garrison to force the point and make an error, as she did the entire match.



Boris Becker

## Schneider wins slalom and the finale season title

ARE, Sweden (AP) — Vreni Schneider of Switzerland captured the women's season slalom title Sunday by winning the last race on the World Cup tour.

Schneider was only 11th after the first run, then capitalized on mishaps in the second run by two of her main rivals.

Claudia Strobl of Austria, who had an eight-point edge ahead of Schneider going into the finale, fell less than seven seconds into the second run and was disqualified.

Strobl was fastest in the opening run, .70 ahead of teammate Petra Kronberger, the overall champion, who also was disqualified in the second run after a gate miss.

Schneider, a double Olympic winner in the 1988 winter games in Calgary and the World Cup overall champion last season, had

a combined time of one minute, 10.20 seconds.

Patricia Chanvet of France was a surprise runner-up, .50 behind Schneider, for her best slalom finish of the season.

World Cup Rookie Perrilla Wiberg of Sweden placed third, .67 behind.

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## Arsenal defeat sweet revenge for ex-manager

LONDON (R) — Nearly 14 years ago, Bobby Campbell quit his job as Arsenal coach after failing to land the coveted manager's job in succession to Bertie Mee.

On Saturday, he returned to Highbury for the first time as a manager and walked away a very happy man indeed.

Not only did his team Chelsea do what no other side have done this season, they effectively shattered the English league soccer champions' fading hopes of retaining the title.

The 1-0 win dealt Arsenal their first home defeat of the season and gave midfielder John Bumstead a goal to celebrate on his 300th appearance for the west London club.

"I am highly delighted with this win but I'd better not say too much about why," said a jubilant Campbell.

Arsenal remains in third place in the league, just one point in front of Chelsea who have played one game more.

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1990

7

Liverpool, who were at Manchester United Sunday, are five points behind Villa but have one match in hand.

Arsenal manager George Graham, whose team conceded the 64th-minute goal against the run of play, was clearly shaken.

"I never think about the title. I didn't last year when we won it but if you can't win it you have to keep playing for your professional pride and finish as high as possible," he said.

"There could still be possibly Europe to aim for and you have to give your fans value for money. But this result summed up our season — we were very inconsistent."

The fans, who jeered Graham's decision to bring off the substitutes' bench to make way for new \$2.4 million signing Tony Cascarino, scored

Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal's north London neighbours, were also nursing wounds inflicted by west Londoners, going down 3-1 at Queen's Park Rangers who

could have scored more.

Norwich drew 1-1 with relegation-threatened Millwall but the match turned bad in the 61st minute when Norwich's Robert Fleck and Millwall's Steve Wood were sent off for fighting.

For several disgruntled strikers, Saturday proved a time to remind their manager just what they could do.

Transfer-listed Tony Cottee scored a brace as Everton beat Crystal Palace 4-0 while Manchester City's one-time England international Clive Allen returned to the first team after two months out and hit a penalty in their 1-1 draw at Luton.

Villa's Ian Ormondroyd, dropped

to the substitutes' bench to make way for new \$2.4 million signing Tony Cascarino, scored

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